

## LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

*RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO REPLACE ALL CHAIN LINK FENCING AS ALLOWED BY THE BUDGET IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARKS WITH TWO-RAIL WOOD FENCING EXCEPT WHERE CHAIN LINK FENCING IS NECESSARY FOR OPERATIONAL, SECURITY, OR STORAGE REASONS [SEE ORIGINAL ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 041905]*

Senator Javier D. Souto

### I. SUMMARY

This resolution directs the County Manager to replace all chain-link fencing at all County parks with two-rail wood fencing, except where chain-link fencing is needed for operational, storage or security reasons.

### II. PRESENT SITUATION

The Park and Recreation (P&R) Department is currently preparing an inventory of all parks, an explanation for those facilities where wood fencing is not feasible, a cost estimate for those facilities where the chain-link fencing would be replaced, and a summary of findings. Since this item was first before the Recreation & Cultural Affairs Committee in July 2004, staff requested 90 days to complete the report. The Manager's Second Change Memo states that the report would be completed by the end of October; however, P&R staff indicates that the report may not be completed until sometime in November.

Historically, chain-link fencing has been used where practical and sufficient, due in large part to the cost-effectiveness compared to other types of fencing.

### III. POLICY CHANGE AND IMPLICATION

This would require replacing existing chain-link fencing at County parks with two-rail wood fencing, within the given budget constraints, at County parks where determined feasible. Note that fencing may be changed in some parks where the existing fencing is not scheduled for repair or replacement. *To minimize this possibility, the scheduling of replacement should consider the age and condition of the fence.*

### IV. ECONOMIC IMPACT

Staff is working on providing an estimate of the cost, but will not have this information ready by this Committee meeting. P&R staff indicates that two-rail wood fencing costs about twice as much as chain-link fencing (\$24 to \$30/linear square foot vs. \$12 to \$15/linear sq. foot). The fiscal impact would also include the removal and installation (by P&R staff). The wood fencing needs to be treated and painted on a regular basis to extend its life.

**REVISION:** Parks staff initially indicated the above cost discrepancy. However, following printing, the statement above needs to be revised. Due to the recent rising cost of steel, the cost of the chain-link fence is actually comparable to the cost of the wood fence. The life span of both types of fence is about 20 years.

**BUDGET & FINANCE ITEM 2(F) - revised**  
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The Budget office indicates that the funding source(s) for this would have to be determined once the cost estimate is obtained.

**V. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

There are over 400 County parks; however, not all these parks have fences. Depending on the associated costs and whether funding is available, the replacements may have to be phased in over a number of years.

This resolution would also set a precedent for future County parks or fencing needs of parks. While it would not apply to non-County parks, they could be encouraged to do the same.